

Health Care As your Representative in Congress, I am continually working to create a health care system that is more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Among my top priorities are addressing the needs of the 97 million uninsured and underinsured Americans.

FUNDING HEALTH CENTERS IN INDIANAPOLIS

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In early 2009, community health centers and hospitals across our city have received nearly \$2.5 million dollars in federal assistance from both the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Omnibus Appropriations Act.

These funds will greatly expand the ability of these facilities to cater to needy families in the neighborhoods that they serve.

I strongly supported the allocation of these funds because I believe they will finally allow thousands of Marion county residents to receive the quality, affordable health care that they desperately need.

IMPROVING MEDICARE FOR SENIORS

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Under the Bush Administration, Medicare recipients faced significant cuts to access and quality of care.

That's why

I joined my colleagues in the 110

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Congress in supporting legislation that increased Medicare benefits for low-income recipients and prevented a 10 percent payment reduction for physicians who treat Medicare patients.

The ARRA also contains provisions that help Medicare recipients in these difficult economic times.

Later this year, seniors who receive Medicare, as well as those who receive Veterans Administration and SSI benefits, will receive one-time payments of \$250 to help cover the rising cost of basic needs.

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EXPANDING HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

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In January 2009, over 10 million low-income children were living without the security of health insurance because their parents did not qualify for Medicaid but were unable to afford private insurance.

These children often faced prolonged illness and a reduced quality of life because they were unable to visit a doctor when sick or receive necessary treatment when injured.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have maintained the strong belief that children's access to health care should not be affected by the financial standing of their family.

In the 110

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Congress, I supported the passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provided insurance coverage to 10 million needy children.

Unfortunately, this legislation was vetoed by President Bush, preventing its assistance from reaching America's children.

Fortunately, I had a second opportunity to vote for SCHIP earlier this year.

This time, President Obama signed this critical legislation, bringing the benefit of affordable health care to millions of struggling families across the country.

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DEVELOPING HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Currently, most doctors and hospitals across the country utilize paper copies of medical records, which are transferred between locations by fax or mail.

This system is extremely time-consuming and makes it increasingly difficult for physicians to treat patients in a safe and expedient manner.

The ARRA allocated \$20 billion to fund the creation of a nationwide electronic health records system.

Once implemented, this system will allow doctors around the country to quickly and easily transmit records, which in turn will reduce costs and waiting time for patients.

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TREATING AND PREVENTING HIV/AIDS

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Thirty million people are currently infected with HIV/AIDS, with 2 million dying from the disease every year.

Over 1 million of those infected are living within the United States.

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I offered my strong support to the Hyde-Lantos HIV/AIDS Reauthorization Bill, which provides billions of dollars in aid to developing countries fighting high rates of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

I was successful in adding an amendment to this bill that creates a transatlantic, technological medium of exchange that allows African scientists and American medical professionals to collaborate on the best methods for treating and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS on the African continent.